

Worcester May 17 1887

Friend May I cut the enclosed from the Springfield Republican of today and think it will interest you and Johnson too. If you will send it to him,

I presume Frank Seaborn knows who wrote it

Truly Joseph A. Howland

Elh Thayer of Worcester, who deserves much credit for his original invention of the plan for organized emigration to Kansas in 1854, but who neither invented gunpowder nor the best method of writing history, has been pestering the newspapers of late with pamphlets and communications concerning those unrighteous persons,—Garrisonian abolitionists, biographers of John Brown and Abraham Lincoln, etc.,—who have failed to recognize Mr Thayer as the original patentee of the freedom of Kansas; and his pet scheme, the New England Emigrant Aid company, as the one appointed means by which slavery was overthrown in the United States. After swinging round the political circle for 30 or 40 years, Mr Thayer, with unexpected good judgment, has fastened upon the one brilliant political period of his life—his efforts for freedom in Kansas in 1854-56—as the fortress of his reputation, and is fighting for fame there with something like his old vigor and rashness. The great grandsons of Revolutionary generals of dubious fame do not kick against the historical pricks of Bancroft more angrily than does Mr Thayer against the wet blanket of biography in which Messrs Hay and Nicolay are swathing the great outlines of Lincoln's character. From that mass of moist historical flannel—those annals of sheep's wool and small politics—the Worcester polemic selects a brief and complimentary allusion to himself and his Emigrant Aid company, and denounces it in two or three columns of the Boston Herald. At this rate of composition and criticism, the Century's life of Lincoln and its commentaries will occupy all that is left of the 19th century. But the merits of this particular controversy can be given in a nutshell.

A French showman was once exhibiting relics to the multitude. When he came to a fine old two-hand sword, he said, "This is the very saber with which Balaam, the prophet, smote his beast." "But," said a village priest who stood by, "monsieur, the prophet did not wear a sword at all, he only wished for one." "Tres bien," cried the unabashed showman; "this is the very sword he wished for." The Emigrant Aid company that Mr Thayer sets forth in such glowing colors,—to which Mr Evarts gave one-fourth of all his alleged property, and the Charles Francis Adams of that day subscribed \$25,000—was the very sword we wished for when we were fighting the slave-holders and dough-faces in Kansas; but we never got it. The actual Emigrant Aid company fell very far short of it; partly because of those defects of character and those snap-judgments in Mr Thayer himself which frustrated the completion of every great enterprise he undertook; and partly because of the inherent difficulties in organizing emigration to a new territory, and the profound scriptural truth that "we have this treasure in earthen vessels." Mr Thayer says in his Worcester pamphlet of last winter, which he is now boiling down into newspaper articles: "In all my emigration schemes I intended to make the results return 'a profitable dividend in cash.'" His agents in Kansas took the hint, and, for fear their dividends should never reach them by way of Boston, collected them in advance. This gradually "threw a coldness over the meetin'" of the Boston directors, and, after a year or two, practically ended the usefulness of the company; which, as an investment of capital, was a dead failure, although Mr Thayer had held out enticing hopes of its pecuniary results.

The biographers of Lincoln do no great injustice to the excellent promoters of this enterprise, although, if they could extend their work to the bulk of Hubert Bancroft's history of California, they could give 10 papers or so to the Emigrant Aid company. Their account in substance agrees with that of Col Higginson—than whom there is no better authority—who wrote in 1879:

No one can deny the important influence exerted by that association, though it always seemed to me that its "organized emigration" in a strict sense was a failure, as must be all attempts to control from a distance the settlement of a new community. Its associated emigrants were apt to separate on reaching Kansas. When its saw-mills broke down there had to be negotiations across half the continent before they could be repaired; and meanwhile private enterprise had perhaps set up a better saw-mill not far off. What the society really did was to advertise Kansas, and to direct thither a really superior class of settlers. This was a very important first step. But these early settlers were, like most northern men at that period, men of peace. When civil war came new leaders had to come to the front, and new instrumentalities proved necessary. The real crisis of Kansas was in 1856. That year brought a state of things in which the "Emigrant Aid society" was practically paralyzed, and it was necessary to form new organizations which had no objection to buying Sharp's rifles. The formation of these "Kansas committees" in the free states, and the leadership of Brown, Lane and Montgomery within the territory, were what finally saved Kansas to freedom. But for these influences the Missourian invasion would have swept away every trace of the "Emigrant Aid society" and its work.

Mr Thayer attempts to break the force of this statement by showing, as he easily can, that he and other directors of the company gave or raised money to buy rifles for the men who saved Kansas. So they did,—but in so doing they forfeited their claim to be known as a peaceful financial trust, investing money in the colonization of government lands. There was too much insincerity in the professions of the company to make its existence very useful when bullets not votes decided the fate of the colonists. It did a good work, and Mr Thayer himself did a better,—but the heroes of Kansas freedom were not the managers of the Emigrant Aid company.

Watches repaired in gold shape. Prices only \$5.00

GEORGE W. RICE, Agent

TRY A HAND AT FARMING.

\$800. POULTRY AND FRUIT FARM,

On stage line out of Springfield. New house new barn; some 5 acres of good land; some w Buildings alone worth \$1200. \$800, and easy to

GEORGE W. RICE, Agent

\$1800—NICE LITTLE 50-AC
PLACE IN WESTFIELD, MA
only 3 miles from center of town—30 acres in
big and tillage. Splendid pine grove on the p
Buildings in good repair. House newly shingled
painted. GEORGE W. RICE, Agent

ONE OF THE NICEST FARMS IN

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY.

Handy to all the Hamptons, North, East and S
170 acres of choice-land; nice timber, pasture
mowing; extra good brick and stone house
rooms; \$1000 barn, and extra barn, running w
8-can Coolay creamery; and charmingly loca
Price only \$4000. GEORGE W. RICE, Agent

FINE FARM FOR SALE IN HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASS.—A farm of
acres located in the town of Worthington, H
shire county, Mass., known as the Hart farm
tered for sale at a low price. It is said to be o
the best farms in the county, is well watered,
good buildings and is in excellent condition.
be sold on easy terms, or owner will trade for
business property. Address S. P. TOWNSE
Hartford, Ct.

WILL BE SOLD AT A SACRIFICE.

Village residence with six acres of land,
ated in a beautiful farming town 14 miles
Worcester. Convenient to railroad station and
over five minutes' walk from church, school,
and post-office. Handsome two-story house,
barn, ice-house, etc. All in the best of repair. I
orchard with every variety of apples, pears
small fruits. High land, free from malaria.
summer residence or permanent home we kno
none more desirable. Price \$3200. Easy terms.
ply to GEO. W. DOANE & CO, Springfield, M
or LYMAN DOANE & CO, East Brookfield, Ma

SEA-SHORE LOTS FOR SALE on 3
ison Beach. Good bathing, good fishing,
clamming. J. M. HULL, Madison,

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.

Farm 150 acres in Athol, Mass.; 2 miles on
road and the same from Orange; new buildings
mile track for trotting and training horses. Ma
sold. Further particulars of J. J. OTHICK
Feeding Hills, Ma

FOR SALE—100 desirable sea-shore be
ing-lots at Pine Orchard, Branford, Ct.

Address F. A. WALLACE,

Wallingford, Ct

TO CLOSE AN ESTATE—Will sell a
top 125-acre farm WAY DOWN if sold at c

CHAS. F. GROSVENOR, Ludlow, Ma

FOR SALE—A desirable farm in Hartle
Ct.; 220 acres; new frame house; great quat
of fruit; plenty of wood; well watered, trout br
near schools; good neighborhood; \$2000 buy
perhaps less. Apply to S. J. BESTOR, Real Es
Dealer, Hartford, Ct., or WM. BAILEY, West V
land, Ct. Must be sold immediately.

FOR SALE—A small, desirable Farm. 10
minutes' walk from center of Belchertown, con
taining 17 acres of good land and large orchard; a
story-and-a-half house, a barn, carriage house, all in
good condition. A. T. SAWIN, Box 908, North
ampton, Mass.

GREAT BARGAIN.—For sale at a sacri
fice, very handsome, large, commodious house,
17 rooms, with every modern improvement, gas, hot
and cold water throughout, stationary tubs and sink,
two bath-rooms with W. C.; good sewerage; high,
dry, light cellar; large heater; in fact, perfect in all
its appointments; good barn; two acres ground;
quantities young fruit; house newly and elegantly
furnished. For full particulars call on or address
the owner, J. W. KEEP, 52 Court st., Westfield, Ma.

HERE IS THE KIND OF FARM TO
BUY.—Contains 180 acres of the best land in
the Conn. valley; cuts 100 tons of first quality hay.
Will keep 50 cows and every quart of milk can be
sold at the door. Buildings are in good condition
and well calculated for a large farm. Considering
location, quality of soil and convenience of access,
this farm has no equal in the state. The owner says
he is bound to sell within 30 days if he has to give
the buyer \$5000 the best end of the bargain.

GEO. W. DOANE & CO, Springfield, Mass.

PLEASANT COUNTRY HOME AND
22-ACRE FARM under excellent cultivation,
attractive in its wide stretches of grass, old shade
trees, broad piazzas and generally neat surround
ings, in one of the prettiest villages in Eastern Mass
achusetts, just one mile from Congregational and
Episcopal churches, schools, bank, post-office, etc.;
pleasant drives over good roads in all directions;
farm pays all operating expenses and fair interest
beside, and is an excellent opportunity for pleasant
farming. Address SPRING BROOK FARM, Box
173, Wrentham, Mass.

Attorneys-at-Law.

ALLEN WEBSTER, Att'y-at-Law. Prac
tice in all branches of law and patent business.

438 Main street, opp. post-office. Notary Public.

FREDERICK H. GILLET, Attorney and

Counselor-at-Law, Republican B'k, 419 Main st.

E. P. KENDRICK, Att'y-at-Law, Pension

Claim Agent, 1 Barnes Block, 394 Main street.

FREDERICK H. STEBBINS, Att'y-at-

Law. Office, 431 Main st., with S. E. Seymour.

BOSWORTH & BARROWS, Attorneys-

at-Law and Notaries Public, 11 Elm street.

D. E. WEBSTER, Attorney-at-Law and

Notary Public. 470 Main street.

P. H. CASEY, Attorney and Counselor-at-

Law, 5 Elm street, Court square.

JOHN F. COAR, Attorney-at-Law, Room

7, Post-office Block.

C. J. DRISCOLL, Attorney-at-Law. Office

5 Elm street.

TEACHER OF PIANO-FORTE.

Will receive pupils in Springfield and vicinity.

Address, Box 4, Taylor's Music Store.

HANNUM'S BUSINESS COLLEGE,

HARTFORD, CT.

Best facilities for Business Branches, including

Telegraphy, Type Writing and Shorthand. Life

Scholarship, \$45. Send for catalog.

H. B. WAITE, Teacher of Voice Culture,

Piano and Organ. Gill's Art Building.

MISS J. W. ROBERTS, Teacher of Piano

and Organ. 48 Auburn St.

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION BY THE

HOURL.—Students fitted for College or School of

Technology. C. E. BLAKE, A. M., 11 Dartmouth st.

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGIATE INSTI-

TUTE, 137½ State st.—Term begins April 18.

ENGLISH, CLASSICAL and BUSINESS SCHOOL

FOR LADIES and GENTLEMEN.

SPRINGFIELD REPUBLICAN

May 17, 1887

LINCOLN'S BIOGRAPHERS AND THE KANSAS CONFLICT. Eli Thayer of Worcester, who deserves much credit for his original invention of the plan for organized emigration to Kansas in 1854, but who neither invented gunpowder nor the best method of writing history, has been pestered the newspapers of late with pamphlets and communications concerning those unrighteous persons, -Garrisonian abolitionists, biographers of John Brown and Abraham Lincoln, etc.-who have failed to recognize Mr. Thayer as the original patentee of the freedom of Kansas; and his pet scheme, the New England Emigrant Aid Company, as the one appointed means by which slavery was overthrown in the United States. After swinging around the political circle for 30 or 40 years, Mr Thayer, with unexpected good judgment, has fastened upon the one brilliant political period of his life-his efforts for freedom in Kansas in 1854-56 as the fortress of his reputation, and is fighting for fame there with something like his old vigor and rashness. The great grandsons of Revolutionary generals of dubious fame do not kick against the historical pricks of Bancroft more angrily than does Mr Thayer against the wet blanket of biography in which Messrs Fay and Nicolay are swathing the great outlines of Lincoln's character. From that mass of moist historical flannel-those annals of sheep's wool and small politics-the Worcester polemic selects a brief and complimentary allusion to himself and his Emigrant Aid Company, and denounces, it in two or three columns the columns of the Boston Herald. At this rate of composition and criticism, the Century's life of Lincoln and its commentaries will occupy all that is left of the 19th century. But the merits of this particular controversy can be given in a nutshell.

A French showman was once exhibiting relics to the multitude. When he came to a fine old two-hand sword, he said, "This is the very saber with which Balaam, the prophet, smote his beast." "But," said a village priest who stood by, "monsieur, the prophet did not wear a sword at all, he only wished for one." "Tres bien," cried the unabashed showman; "this is the very sword he wished for." The Emigrant Aid company that Mr Thayer sets forth in such glowing colors, to which Mr Everts gave one-fourth of all his alleged property, and the Charles Francis Adams of that day subscribed \$25,000-was the very sword we wished for when we were fighting the slaveholders and doughfaces in Kansas; but we never got it. The actual Emigrant Aid company fell very short of it; partly because of those defects of character and those snap-judgments in Mr Thayer himself which frustrated the completion of every great enterprise he undertook; and partly because of the inherent difficulties in organizing emigration to a new territory, and the profound scriptural truth that "we have this treasure in earthen vessels." Mr Thayer says in his Worcester pamphlet of last winter, which he is now boiling down into newspaper articles: "In all my emigration schemes I intended to make th results return a profitable dividend in cash." His agents in Kansas took the hint, and, for fear their dividends should never reach them by way of Boston, collected them in advance. This gradually "threw a coldness over the meetin'" of the Boston directors, and after a year or two, practically ended the usefulness of the company; which as an investment of capital, was a dead failure, although Mr Thayer had held out hopes of its pecuniary results.

The biographers of Lincoln do no great injustice to the excellent promoters of this enterprise, although, if they could extend their work to the bulk of Hubert Bancroft's history of California, they could give 10 papers or so to the Emigrant Aid company.

Their account in substance agrees with that of Col. Higginson--than whom there is no better authority--who wrote in 1879:

No one can deny the important influence exerted by that association, though it always it seemed to me that its "organized emigration" in a strict sense was a failure, as must be all attempts to control from a distance the settlement of a new community. Its associated emigrants were apt to separate on reaching Kansas. When its saw-mills broke down there had to be negotiations across half the continent before they could be repaired; and meanwhile private enterprise had set up a better saw-mill not far off. What the society really did was to advertise Kansas, and to direct thither a really superior class of settlers. This was a very important first step. But these early settlers were, like most northern men at that period, men of peace. When civil war came new leaders had to come to the front, and new instrumentalities proved necessary. The real crisis of Kansas was in 1856. That year brought a state of things in which the "Emigrant Aid society" was practically paralyzed, and it was necessary to form new organizations which had no objections to buying Sharp's rifles. The formation of these "Kansas committees" in the free states, and the leadership of Brown, Lane and Montgomery within the territory, were what finally saved Kansas to freedom. But for these influences the Missourian invasion would have swept away every trace of the "Emigrant Aid society" and its work.

Mr Thayer attempts to break the force of this statement by showing, as he easily can, that he and other directors of the company gave or raised money to buy rifles for the men who saved Kansas. So they did,--but in so doing they forfeited their claim to be known as peaceful financial trust, investing money in the colonization of government lands. There was too much insincerity in the professions of the company to make its existence very useful when bullets not votes decided the fate of the colonists. It did a good work, and Mr Thayer himself did a better,--but the heroes of Kansas freedom were not the managers of the Emigrant Aid company.

